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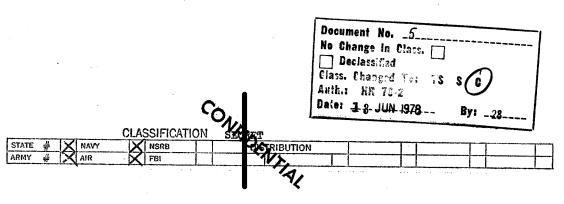
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DATE OF

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REPORT NO.

- 1. The Quito police have attempted to combat the progress made by Nels Hartinez, outstanding woman Communist in Ecuador, in her recent organization of peace committees among the women of Quito\* by falsely accusing her of keeping money which was collected for the family of a baby who died during the recent La Industrial hunger strike. She and other women of the Communist-dominated peace committees solicited material and moral aid for the strikers in order to gain adherents to the Communist cause among the laboring classes.
- 2. According to reliable sources, Martinez had been entrusted with money for the family of the dead beby collected during the funeral procession, which she duly turned over to the family. Several days prior to her arrest on 3 May, it was announced in the press that she had retained a considerable sum of money for herself and had given only sixty sucres to the family. Several witnesses came forward to support her statement that sixty sucres was the total amount collected, and it seemed that the issue would die out with no action taken.
- 3. However, after the first accusations a eared in the press, Martinez publicly denounced the chief of police. He learned of her statements and proceeded to have a document drawn up for the signature of the mother of the dead child charging Martinez with absconding with funds donated to the family. He is alleged to have given the mother fifty sucres to sign the paper. He then called in Martinez and confronted her with the evidence. She went willingly to police headquarters, not knowing that charges had been made against her, only to be locked up overnight upon refusing to make a confession. Friends were able to secure her release on the following day but not until she had signed a document promising to again present herself at the police station if ordered to do so.



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4. Martinez was accompanied to the police station on 3 May by a fellow Communist, Maria Gomez de la Tarre, who became apprehensive that the police would search her own person when their firm attitude became evident and surreptitiously tore up two letters which she was carrying in her purse. One was a letter from her to the Revue Fartisans de la Frix, 15 rue Feyseau, Paris II, France, for the attention of one R. Simon, which enclosed US\$10 for a subscription. The other was to Ricardo Faredes, Secretary General of the Fartido Comunista del Ecurdor, in Manta, Ecuador, in which she told him of recent Communist activities in Juito and the manner in which the police had dispersed a Communist manifestation as well as of the attempt by the police to slander Martinez.

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